

Correctional Officer Application/Selection Process Overview

The following information is designed to take you through the correctional officer selection process – from start to finish. This information should answer many of your questions and will enable you to better prepare yourself to meet the requirements of the position. You should print this information from this webpage and retain it for reference throughout the process.

STEP 1: Submitting the Application Materials

It is very important to follow the instructions provided with the application materials. Applications that are incomplete will not be considered. Some of the most common errors include failure to provide complete mailing addresses and phone numbers for current and previous employers, providing email addresses for employers; and providing at least three references the Department may contact. If you have a limited work history, have been employed with the same company for many years, or are self-employed, you will want to provide the Department with the email address, mailing address and phone number of some personal or professional references. All applications will be processed after the deadline date.

STEP 2: Multiple Choice Test

Once your application has been processed and it has been determined that you are eligible for the correctional officer position, you will receive an invitation to take the written test. The email inviting you to test will include a study guide and position description. The test takes one hour and consists of 55 multiple-choice questions. The test is designed to evaluate your reading comprehension, judgement and evaluation skills. A score of 70% or higher is required to pass the test. Should you not receive a passing score you will be encouraged to reapply for subsequent training classes. If you pass the test, you will receive an interview the very same day.

STEP 3: Interview

The interview will be conducted by a three member panel asking questions used to evaluate your understanding, commitment, ability and readiness for the position. You will receive a copy of the position description with the email inviting you to the interview. You should review the position description prior to your arrival. Your interview panel will have at least one Supervising Officer and/or a Correctional Sergeant as a member and this will be an excellent opportunity to ask any job specific questions you may have. After your interview you will be sent to complete your fitness test the very same day.

STEP 4: Physical Fitness Testing

After your interview you will be sent to a facility to complete your fitness testing. The fitness test consists of three events – pushups, sit-ups, and 1.5 mile run that must be successfully completed within a one-hour test period. If you fail any portion of the test you can schedule a retest and must pass all three events during the retest for hiring consideration. You will be tested not only on the number of repetitions, but also proper performance of the pushups and sit-ups. The standards are as follows:

AGE	PUSH UPS	SIT-UPS	1.5 MILE RUN
18 – 29	25	35	15:30
30 – 39	23	30	16:30
40 – 49	17	23	17:30
50+	12	19	18:30

Push Ups

- a. Hands on floor, palms down, fingers straight, arms and back straight.
 - Men: Feet together on the floor.
 - Women: Knees together on the floor.
- b. Bending only your elbows, lower body toward the floor creating a 90 degree bend in your elbows, while keeping body straight.
- c. Push your body up by straightening your elbows, while keeping your body straight.
- d. This is one repetition.
- e. Pushups must be performed with a continuous motion, no stopping or resting between repetitions.

Do not return with application – applicant information

- Sit-Ups**
- Laying flat on the floor, legs bent at the knee, feet together.
 - Feet flat on the floor, arms across your chest, or arms straight at side (3 or 4 inches off the floor and away from body)
 - Feet are held securely by another trainee.
 - Slowly ascend your upper body forward until you are sitting upright. You may not use your arms to create motion or grab your thighs to pull yourself up.
 - Ascend as far forward as physically possible. If your arms cross your chest, you must raise the elbows above your knees. Each time you ascend to the upright position is one repetition.
 - Slowly descend your upper body until you are lying flat touching your shoulder blades on the floor.
 - Bent knee sit-ups must be performed with continuous motion, no stopping or resting between repetitions.
- 1.5 Mile Run**
- Run or jog 1.5 miles.
 - Time for this activity is based upon your individual physical fitness standard.

STEP 5: Selection Panel

A selection panel consisting of three departmental managers will review the files of all applicants who pass the test, interview, and fitness. The files include employment history, references, and interview results. This information is considered in order to determine which applicants are most qualified. You will receive an email notification letting you know if you are selected to move on in the process or not. Those selected will be offered employment contingent on passing medical exam.

STEP 6: Certification

All applicants who pass the Selection Panel receive a numerical ranking and are placed on the employment register. The ranking is based upon the multiple choice test and interview results and the register will include requested preference areas. Top applicants are then contacted to offer employment. It is possible that applicants will be contacted to fill vacancies in areas other than those requested.

STEP 7: Medical Examination

If applicant accepts offer of employment, Medical Examinations are arranged and paid for by the Department. However, applicants who do not meet the standards will be referred to their personal physician and the applicant will incur the expense of the referral. The medical standards and examination are based on the capability of the applicant to perform the essential functions of the correctional officer position. The examination will take approximately one hour. More specific instructions and some forms to complete prior to the appointment will be included in the email inviting you to the medical examination. If you pass your medical examination you will be scheduled to start pre-service training.

STEP 8: Correctional Officer Preservice Training

The Corrections Training Center is now located in Madison. You must successfully complete the required seven-week training program before beginning work in an institution. This is paid training and the starting wage for the position of correctional officer is currently **\$15,194**. Training is normally Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The program involves six weeks of training at the Corrections Training Center and one week of on-the-job training at a correctional institution.

The Department of Corrections provides lodging (Monday through Thursday night) and meals during the training week if your residence is more than 40 miles from the training site. Lodging will consist of two occupants per room that will be prearranged by gender, job location, and age. If your residence is less than 40 miles away your lunch will be provided.

HOW DO I GET SELECTED FOR THIS POSITION?

Before you submit your application, be sure the following has been completed. Failure to do so will result in “not eligible” status.

Arrest and Conviction Record (Question 23 on the wisc.jobs application) Applicants are automatically deemed “not eligible” if any conviction appears on the criminal background check that was not disclosed. This includes all adult criminal or municipal fines (including traffic and DNR) and/or convictions regardless of how many years have elapsed.

- Review your Wisconsin Circuit Court Access Record on-line (wcca.wicourts.gov) and obtain a Driver License Abstract from the DMV (<http://dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/index.htm>) before applying. Violations should be disclosed on the Arrest and Conviction Record form. Please note not all fines/convictions may appear on Wisconsin Circuit Court. To obtain your complete record visit the Department of Justice website- <http://www.doj.state.wi.us>. A \$7 fee is required.

Employment References: Due to the sensitive job requirements of this position, the Department of Corrections has placed special emphasis in evaluating past work history and performance of applicants. With the large volume of applicants interested in this position, it is important that applicants accept the burden of encouraging employers to respond to any inquiries from the Department.

- Contact employers and inform them that if they are contacted, to please respond to our request
- Verify that the mailing addresses are accurate on the application
- Verify employers email address
- Go the employer and complete a “release authorization” if they require one.
- Encourage supervisors to provide you with a recommendation that can be attached to your application materials
- Include volunteer work references; internships; and military

Driving Record:

- Verify that you have a valid driver’s license, see your Driver License Abstract
- You must have 2 years of licensed driving experience – an Instruction Permit does not count toward licensed driver experience.
- Include all traffic violations on the Arrest and Conviction Question on the application.